

(Adopted March 1, 1991)

RULE 1411. RECOVERY OR RECYCLING OF REFRIGERANTS FROM MOTOR VEHICLE AIR CONDITIONERS

(a) Purpose

This rule prohibits release or disposal of refrigerants used in motor vehicle air conditioners and prohibits the sale of refrigerants in containers which contain less than 20 pounds of refrigerant.

(b) Applicability

This rule is applicable to any person who installs, replaces, or services motor vehicle air conditioners, or performs any other motor vehicle repairs, dismantling, or salvage that would cause release of refrigerant. This rule also applies to refrigerant retailers.

(c) Definitions

For the purpose of this rule, the following definitions apply:

- (1) APPROVED RECOVERY EQUIPMENT is equipment for refrigerant recovery that is approved by the Executive Officer.
- (2) APPROVED RECYCLING EQUIPMENT is any refrigerant recycling equipment that has a certificate issued by Underwriters Laboratories (or another independent testing organization, as approved by the Executive Officer) that the equipment meets or exceeds the applicable Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standards of performance. Equipment purchased prior to April 1, 1991 will be acceptable, provided it is functionally equivalent to UL-certified equipment, as approved by the Executive Officer.
- (3) CHARGING EQUIPMENT is equipment used to dispense refrigerant from gas cylinders.
- (4) DISPOSE is to discard refrigerant in any manner except destruction by incineration.
- (5) MOTOR VEHICLE is any vehicle as defined in California Vehicle Code Section 415.
- (6) MOTOR VEHICLE AIR CONDITIONER is any equipment using a refrigerant to cool the driver's or passenger compartment of any motor vehicle.

- (7) PERSON is any firm, business establishment, association, partnership, corporation, or individual, whether acting as principal, agent, employee, or other capacity, including any governmental entity or charitable organization.
 - (8) RECLAIM is to process refrigerant to new-product specifications.
 - (9) RECOVER is to remove refrigerant in any condition from a system and store it in an external container, without necessarily testing or processing it in any way.
 - (10) RECYCLE is to clean refrigerant for reuse by oil separation and single or multiple passes through moisture-absorption devices, such as replaceable core filter-driers.
 - (11) REFRIGERANT is any of the following five chlorinated fluorinated carbon compounds: trichlorofluoromethane (CFC-11), dichlorodifluoromethane (CFC-12), trichlororifluoroethane (CFC-113), dichlorotetrafluoroethane (CFC-114), or chloropentafluoroethane (CFC-115); or any combinations of these compounds used in motor vehicle air conditioning equipment.
- (d) Requirements
- On and after January 1, 1992, the following requirements must be met:
- (1) No person shall install, service, modify, or dispose of any motor vehicle air conditioner, or perform related automotive repairs or modifications that may cause release of refrigerants unless that person:
 - (A) recovers or recycles all the refrigerant with approved refrigerant recovery or recycling equipment, and employs procedures for the use of the equipment as specified by the recovery or recycling equipment manufacturer; and
 - (B) does not dispose of refrigerants.
 - (2) No person shall operate recovery or recycling equipment unless each individual performing or supervising work on motor vehicle air conditioners obtains a certificate of training from the manufacturer of the equipment or from an equivalent training program approved by the Executive Officer.
 - (3) No person shall operate recovery, recycling, or charging equipment, except for the maintenance or repair of such equipment, unless the equipment, as tested at intervals specified in (d)(6), has no detectable leaks as determined by one of the following tests:

- (A) an electronic halogen detector used in accordance to manufacturer's specifications, measured 1 centimeter away from any portion of the system; or
 - (B) an alternate method approved by the Executive Officer.
 - (4) Leaks in recovery, recycling, or charging equipment must be repaired within 2 business days after the leak is first detected, unless the equipment does not leak if its use is discontinued.
 - (5) No person shall add refrigerant to a vehicle unless the air conditioning system has no detectable leaks as determined by one of the following tests:
 - (A) an electronic halogen detector used in accordance to manufacturer's specifications, measured 1 centimeter away from any portion of the system; or
 - (B) fluorescent tracer dyes injected through the system according to manufacturer's specifications and scanned with an ultra-violet lamp; or
 - (C) an alternate method approved by the Executive Officer.
 - (6) Leak tests, according to one of the methods set forth in paragraph (3) on recovery, recycling, or charging equipment, shall be conducted every six months.
 - (7) No person shall sell, distribute, offer for sale or distribution for use in the District, or purchase or use any refrigerants for motor vehicle air conditioners in containers with a capacity of less than 20 pounds.
- (e) **Compliance Schedule**
- (1) Recovery or recycling equipment shall be exempt from District Rules 201 and 203 until January 1, 1992.
 - (2) On and after January 1, 1992, any person owning or operating recovery or recycling equipment shall comply with the requirements of paragraph (f) of this rule.
- (f) **Record Keeping**
- Records shall be maintained by persons subject to this rule for a minimum of two (2) years and made available to the Executive Officer on request. Records shall include the following information:
- (1) Pounds of refrigerants purchased, used, recovered, recycled, stored, and sold for use in the District per calendar year.

- (2) Semianual maintenance records for any recovery and recycling equipment, including the name of the person performing the maintenance, the dates that the maintenance was performed, results of leak tests, and records of what equipment was checked, modified, serviced, or replaced.
- (3) Annual documentation of the training of all personnel performing or supervising refrigerant recovery or recycling.
- (4) Annual documentation, by receipts or other verification, for refrigerant that is shipped off-site, if recycling is not done on the premises.